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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNCDF ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
YEMEN (NORTH)

IPF: (1987-1991) $42,588,000
(YEM/90/C01) - Transport and Education Infrastructure in the North-West Dhawran District

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	27 February 1991
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed co-operating agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Executive Office for Reconstruction
Proposed UNCDF contribution:	$5 582 400
Source of funds:	UNCDF general resources

Project background

Following a severe earthquake in December 1982, which partially destroyed an estimated 25,000 houses in the Dhamar Governorate located in the central mountain plains, the Government engaged in a three-phase approach for the rehabilitation of the area. After an initial relief operation, the Government decided to call for massive assistance in housing reconstruction to be followed by a third phase for the improvement of the economic and social infrastructure of the area, to provide an adequate basis for its development.

UNCDF, together with UNDP technical assistance, engaged in the reconstruction on a self-help basis of 289 earthquake-resistant houses in 27 remote villages, under the project YEM/84/C01 Post-Earthquake Housing Reconstruction in the North-West Dhawran District, of the Dhamar Governorate. Prior to the completion of YEM/84/C01 in July 1989, the Government requested UNCDF assistance to contribute to the upgrading of the social and economic infrastructure of the District. The absence of an adequate feeder road network, combined with the lack of an appropriate education infrastructure, has proved to be a major bottleneck to the development of the region. YEM/90/C01 is, therefore, a direct follow-up of the housing reconstruction project, and is located in the same geographical region which has a population of about 40,000 people scattered over a number of small villages. The main economic activity consists of traditional subsistence agriculture and some animal raising.

Description of project

The Long-term objective of the project is to improve the basic social and economic infrastructure in the region by creating conditions that ate conductive to future economic development mainly in the agricultural sector.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project may have occurred subsequently.

This will be achieved by: (i) ending the relative physical isolation of the region, caused by the lack of a feeder road network, which has proved to be a major obstacle to the marketing of agricultural produce; (at the same time, the feeder road network will open up an additional 1,550 hectares of good, arable soil); (ii) providing easier access to administrative and social services for the local inhabitants by connecting them to the national road network; (iii) raising the educational level of the local population by providing adequate primary school facilities; (iv) providing immediate employment opportunities, during the construction phase, for inhabitants of the region who have recently returned from the Gulf States; and (v) by stemming rural migration to urban centres through the provision of adequate social services: i.e. primary schools and improved access to basic social, health and administrative services.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) construct 77 km. of all-weather, simple gravelled feeder roads in the Dhawran District, as well as design an adequate maintenance system for the Local Council for Co-operation and Development (LCCD), who will be responsible for the day-to-day routine maintenance of the feeder roads; and (b) construct ten (7x6 and 3x3 classrooms, totalling 51 classrooms designed to accommodate 30 to 40 children each) schools. In order to accommodate the 51 teachers, the project will avail itself of the active participation of the beneficiary population, generated under the self-help housing construction programme.

Inputs

UNCDF will cover the costs of subcontracting, which includes the road survey and design works, as well as supervisory and monitoring activities; the construction of the roads and schools (by local contractors); one 4 WD-vehicle, including its operation and maintenance costs; and formulation, monitoring and technical review missions.

The Government will finance the costs of salaries of national staff assigned to the project; office space; office supplies; school furniture; water and electricity connection (schools insofar as electricity is available in the respective village); and running and maintenance costs for vehicles which will be supplied from the Government's existing fleet, for use by the national staff. In addition, the Government will be responsible (through the LCCD and Highway Authority) for the maintenance of the schools and roads; the operating costs of the schools including teachers salaries for 51 teachers.

Financial data

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Missions	210 000
Subcontracts	4 657 000
Transport	25 000
O/M vehicle	45 000
Contingencies	465 000
Support costs	180 400
Total	5 582 400

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